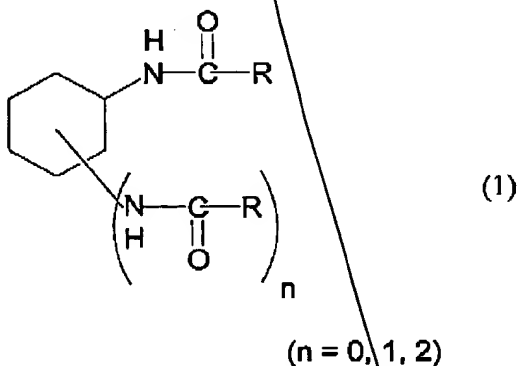


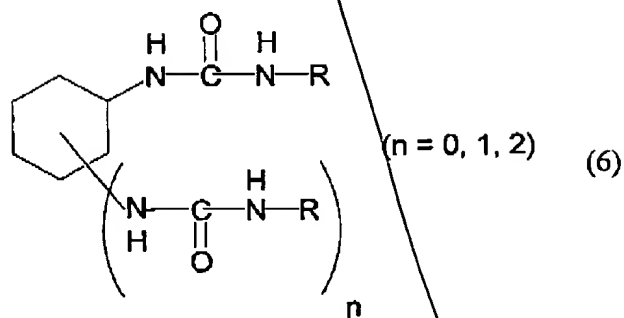
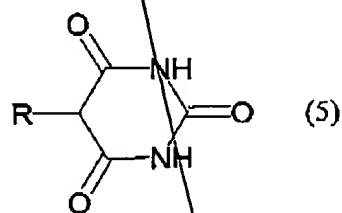
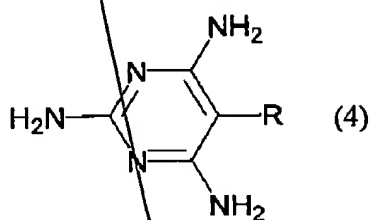
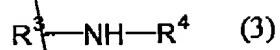
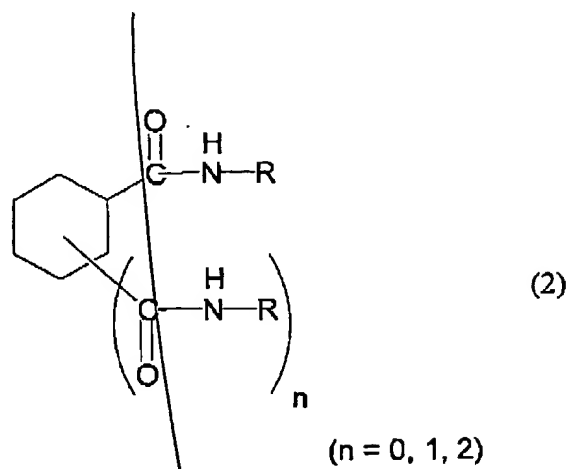
IN THE CLAIMS:

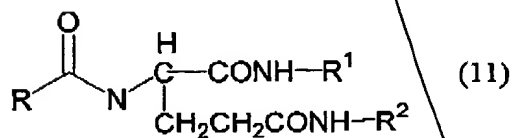
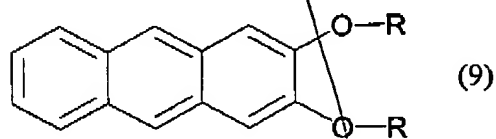
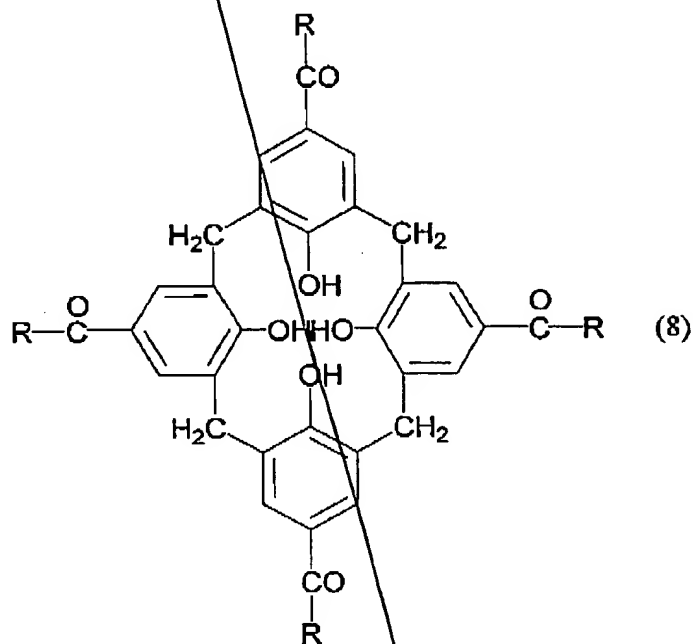
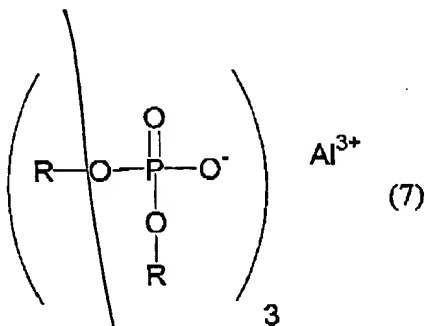
Please cancel claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

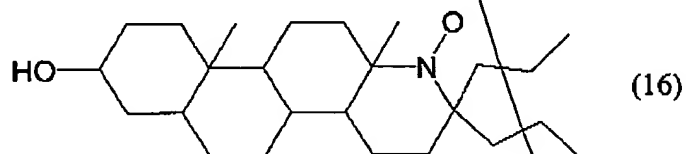
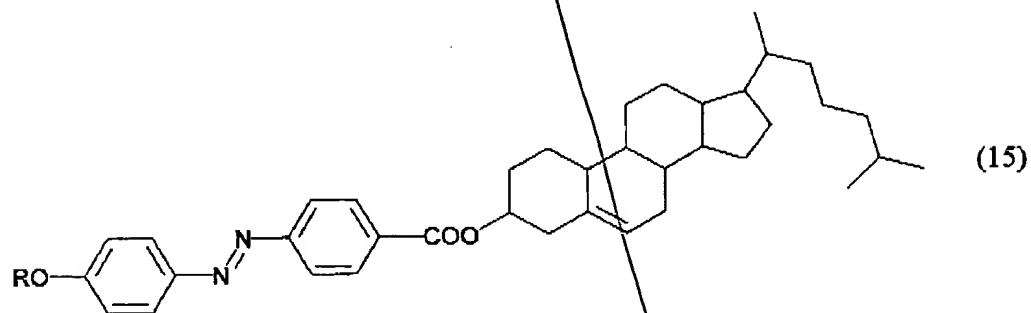
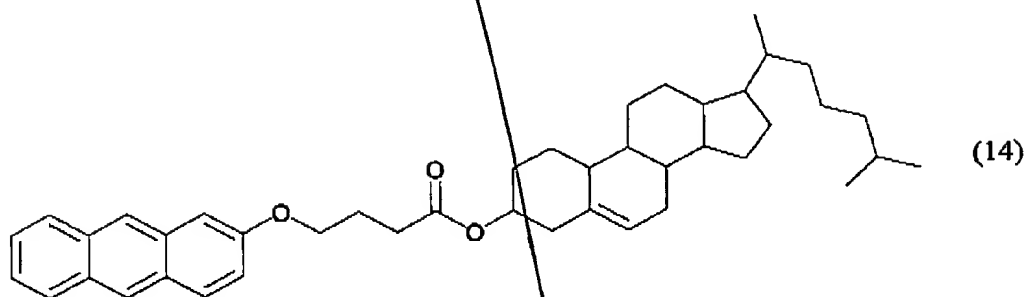
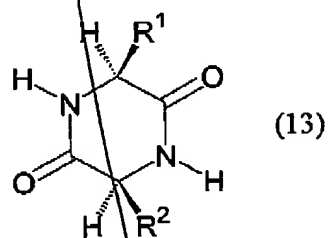
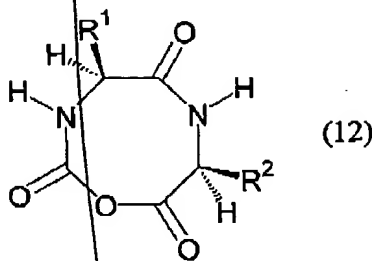
Please amend claims 1, 6 and 7 as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

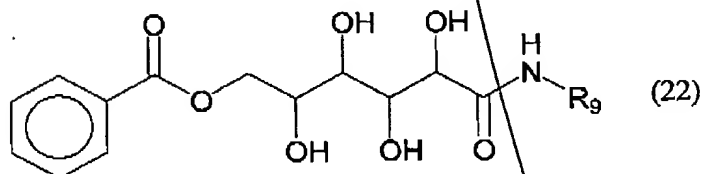
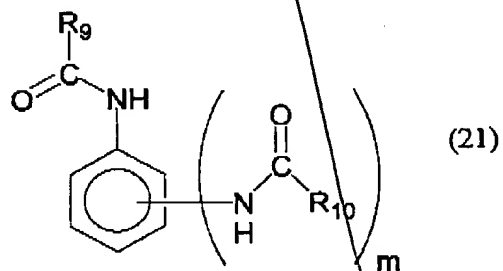
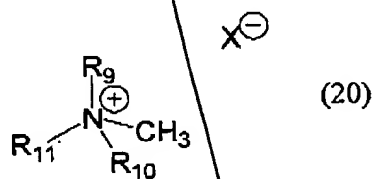
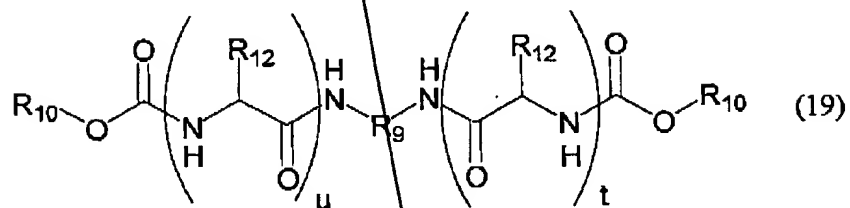
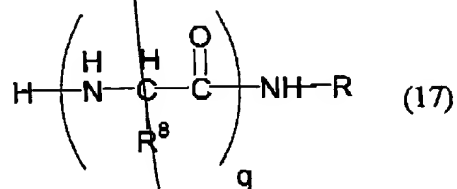
1. (Four Times Amended) A gel electrolyte comprising:  
a gelling agent forming a fibrous body; and  
an ionically conductive material, which is liquid at working temperature and which is held in the fibrous body by said gelling agent,  
wherein said ionically conductive material is a salt that is liquid at room temperature, the fibrous body is associates via intermolecular bonding, and the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae (1) to (17) and (19) to (26):

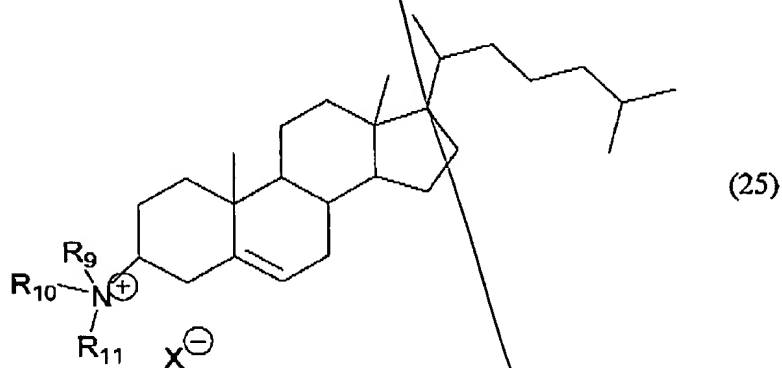
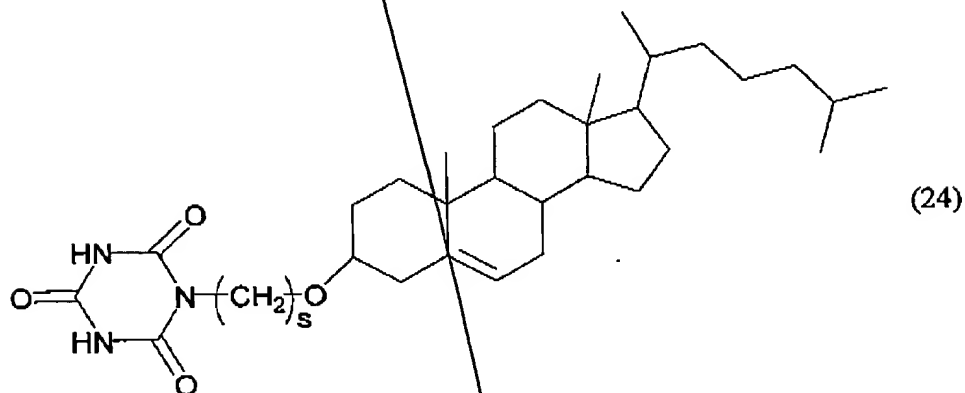
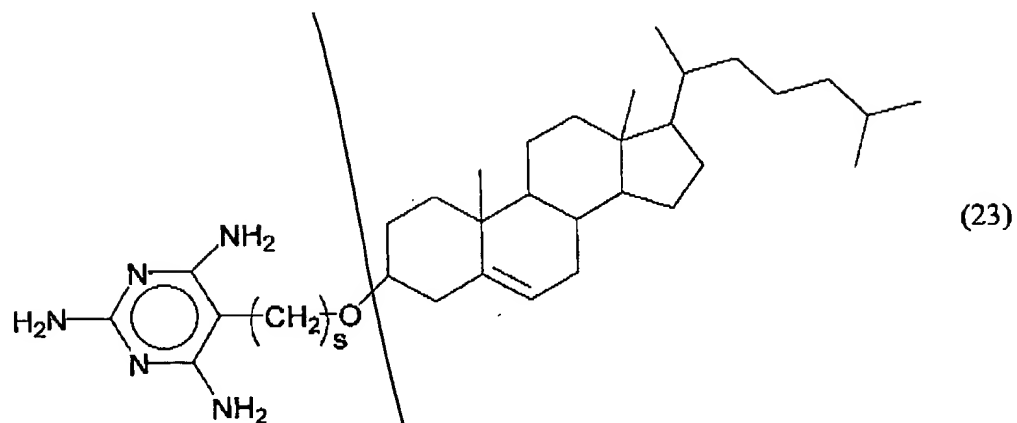




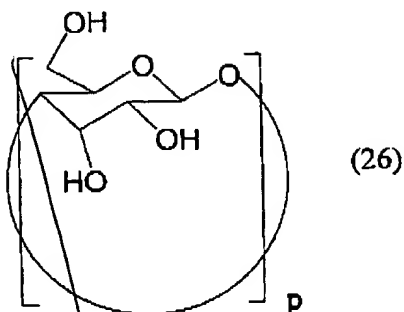








and



wherein,  $R$ ,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each hydrogen, or a straight-chain or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29;  $R_3$  is an amino acid monomer or dimer with a protected amino group;  $R_4$  is an aliphatic hydrocarbon having a carbon number of 1 to 29 or an aryl group;  $R_5$  is a straight-chain aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1 to 29 and being substituted with one hydroxyl group;  $R_6$  is hydrogen, or an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 5 or aryl group;  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2;  $q$  is an integer of 2 to 20;  $R_9$ ,  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  are each hydrogen, or a straight-chain or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29;  $R_{12}$  is a side chain of an amino acid, or an alkyl or aryl group;  $X$  is a halogen;  $p$  is an integer of 6 to 8;  $m$  is an integer of 0 to 5 and  $s$  is an integer of 0 to 29, and  $a$  and  $t$  are an integer of 1 to 500.

6. (Twice Amended) A cell comprising an anode, an electrolyte and a cathode, wherein said electrolyte is the gel electrolyte according to claim 1.

7. (Twice Amended) An electrochromic element comprising a pair of transparent electrodes between which an electrochromic layer which develops color on reduction and a transparent ionic conductor layer exist, wherein said ionic conductor layer contains the gel electrolyte according to claim 1.

(Kindly add new claim 10 as follows:)

10. (New) A gel electrolyte comprising:  
a gelling agent forming a fibrous body; and  
an ionically conductive material that is a salt, which is liquid at working temperature and which is held in the fibrous body by said gelling agent,  
wherein the fibrous body is associated via non-covalent intermolecular bonding, and  
wherein the gel electrolyte is chemically stable.

#### REMARKS

The claims are 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10, with claims 1 and 10 being independent. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 have been cancelled. Solely to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claims 2 and 5. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to reflect the cancellation of claims 2-4.

New claim 10 has been added. Support for this claim may be found throughout the specification and the claims. In particular, chemical stability of the gel